

BALTIMORE CITY--COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CDBG SURVEY YEAR:12

AREA:Park Heights

SURVEY NO.:B-4166

MAGI NO.:0441668811

ADDRESS:4316-4352 Park Heights Avenue

CURRENT NAME:

BLOCK: LOT:

HEIGHT:2

CONDITION:Good

LOT SIZE:

MATERIALS:Brick

OWNER:

ADDRESS:

USE:Commercial

ACCESSIBLE:

DESIGNATION:

LIBER/FOLIO:



HISTORIC NAME:Avalon Theater (4338-4344)

DATE: ca. 1925; 1927 (4338-4344)

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:Frederic A. Fletcher (4338-4344)

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE):Exotic Revival (4338-4344)

DESCRIPTION:

4316-4352 Park Heights Avenue is located on the west side of the street between the intersection of Boarman Avenue (previously Howard Place) and Classen Avenue (previously Allen) in the Park Heights Planning District of west Baltimore, MD. It is a continuous row of 7 buildings with 11 commercial fronts. 4316-4320 is a 2 story building with 3 storefront facades. The windows on the second floor have been covered. 4322-4336 are 4, 2 story brick rowhouses with storefronts and applied molded cornices with running boards. The second floors have 1 over 1 windows with segmental brick arches and brick sills. 4338-4344 is the Avalon Theater--the keystone of the block, a richly decorated movie house with Moorish details. It is a tan brick building with a decorative red brick diamond pattern. The center of the facade, above the marquee, is dominated by 5 arches supported by twisted columns. Smaller versions of the arches and columns exist to each side of the center. A corbeled cornice is located between the first and second floors. 4346-4352, a commercial building with 3 storefronts, including a corner store, blends into the theater. It has a tan brick facade with decorative red brick and a corbeled cornice between the first and second floors.

SIGNIFICANCE:

AREA:Architecture

LEVEL:Local

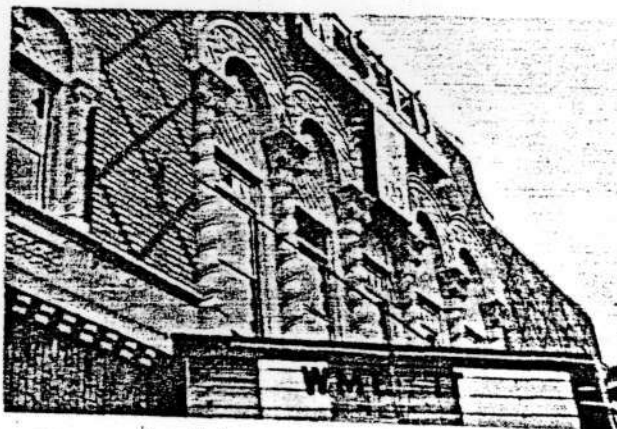
4316-4352 Park Heights Avenue is an example of an early 20th century commercial row within an area of mix use. As such it is significant for the integral role it played in the diverse life of its surrounding community. The buildings have undergone some alteration, yet the row maintains a high degree of integrity and would be eligible for the National Register within a district of undetermined boundaries. Park Heights Avenue was created in 1870 by William Shipley as an act of protest against the high tolls charged on Reisterstown Road. The 1914 map shows no development at all on the 4326-4352 block although there is scattered development surrounding it, including residential. As a movie house the Avalon Theater, designed by Frederic A. Fletcher, is a particularly noteworthy feature of the block. It is also architecturally interesting due to its unique decorative style. According to Exit the Avalon Theater "was one of the largest movie houses in northwest Baltimore...". In 1963 the Avalon showed its last movie. It housed a radio-tv studio from 1967-73.

SOURCES:CHAP Files; Headley Jr., Robert Kirk. Exit.; Sanborn Maps; Topo Map. 1914.

SURVEYOR AND DATE: Mary K. Mannix, June 1987



AVALON (1971)



AVALON (1971)

AVALON THEATER
B-4166

Robert Kirk Headley, Jr., Exit, (University Park, Maryland, 1974), Plate 21.



LEGEND

- PROJECT AREA BOUNDARY
- PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED
- RAPID TRANSIT RIGHT-OF-WAY
- RAPID TRANSIT LINE (ELEVATOR)
- RAPID TRANSIT LINE (UNDERGROUND)

PARK HEIGHTS

PLANNING DIVISION



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

PROPERTY ACQUISITION

DATE: 1/15/75
 DRAWN BY: L. J. HARRIS
 CHECKED BY: M. J. HARRIS
 APPROVED:

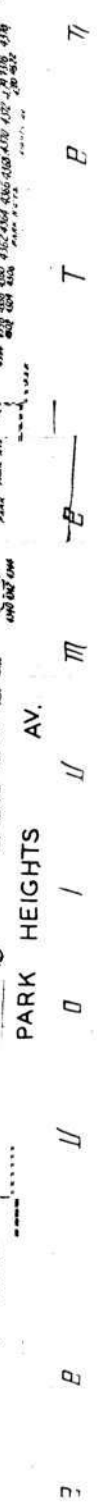
REVISIONS
 1/15/75
 1/17/75
 1/21/75
 1/21/75
 1/21/75

2

EXHIBIT

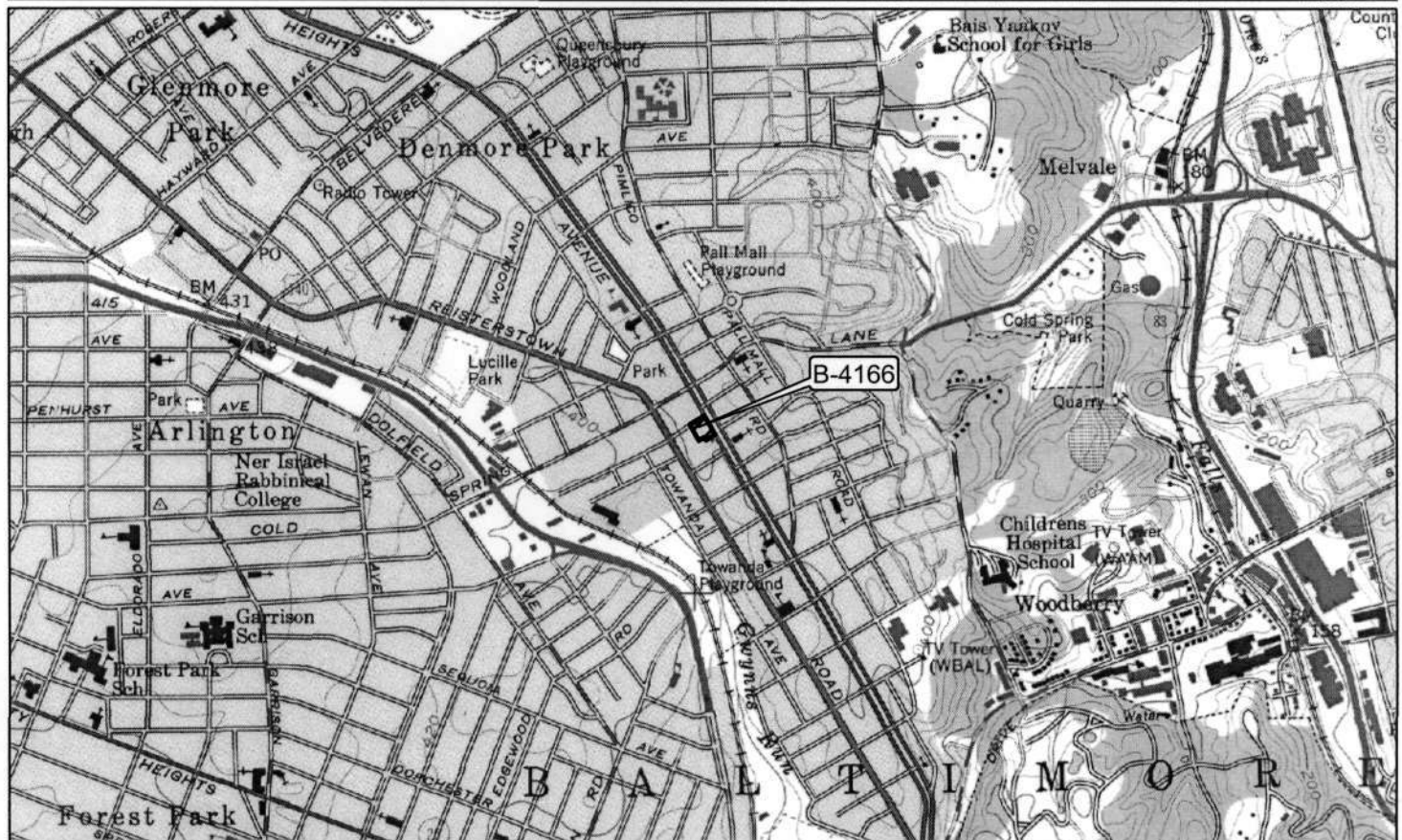
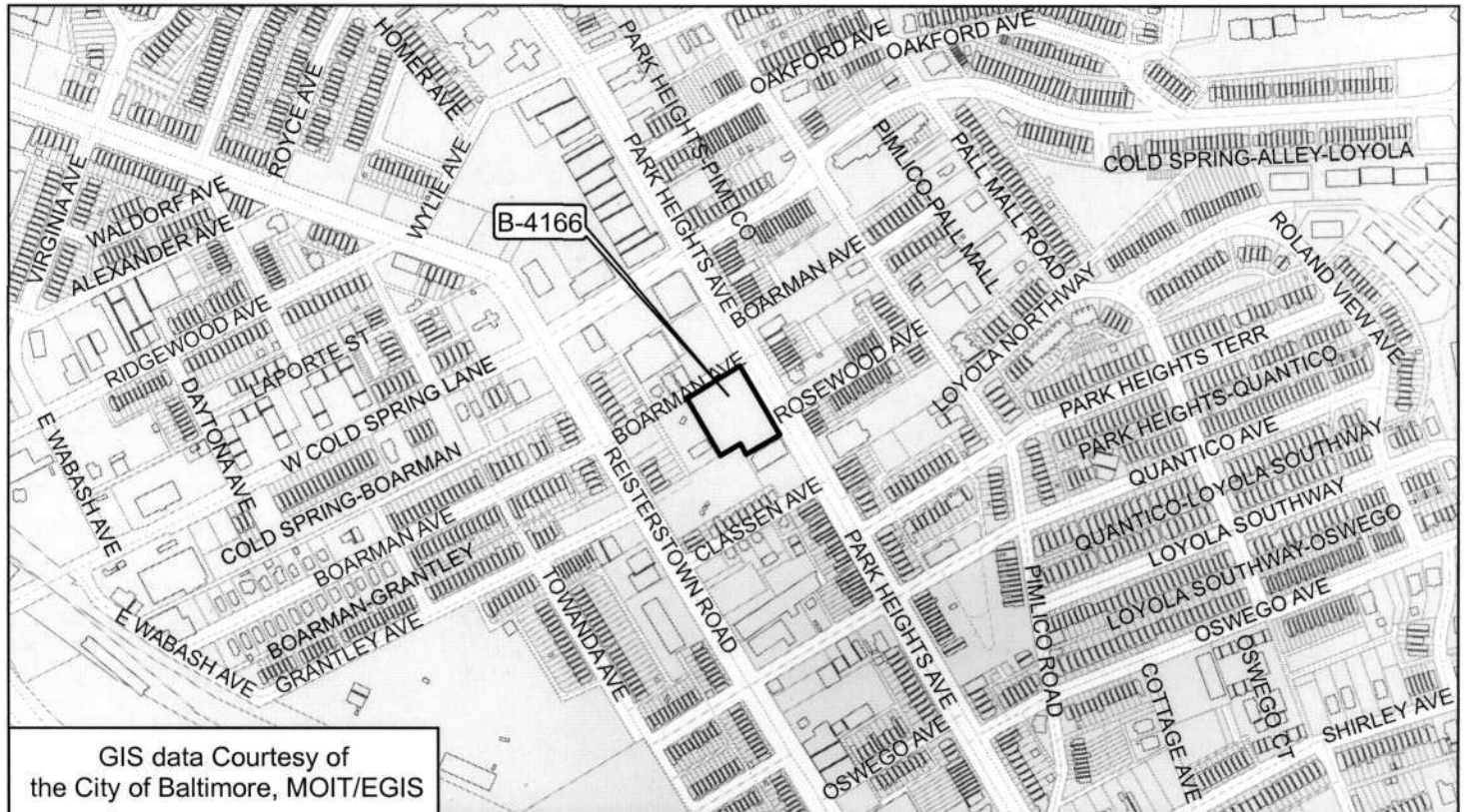
986 W. COLD SPRING LANE (KATE AV.)

20 W AM BALTIMORE, MD VOL 9



B-4166
4316-4352 Park Heights Avenue (now 4340 Park Heights Avenue)
Block 3305A Lot 006
Baltimore City
Baltimore County
Baltimore West Quad.

Demolished





4316-4352 Park Heights Avenue

B-4166

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Photo: Mary K. Mannix

Date: June 1987

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Southeast elevation

1/4



4316-4352 Park Heights Avenue B-4166
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Mary K. Mannix
Date: June 1987
Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Avalon Theater, 4338-4344 Park Heights
Avenue, east elevation
2/4



4316-4352 Park Heights Avenue B-4166

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Photo: Mary K. Mannix

Date: June 1987

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Avalon Theater, 4338-4344 Park Heights Avenue,
arches and columns

3/4



4316-4352 Park Heights Avenue B-4166
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Mary K. Mannix
Date: June 1987
Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
4338-4352 Park Heights Avenue, Northeast
elevation
4/4